UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/367
1 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following the letter of Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), addressed to you on 23 March 1999 (see S/1999/338) specifying the instances of alleged non-compliance by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998), I have been instructed by my Government to advise you of the following:

The data contained in the annex to the letter of Mr. Solana citing the instances of Yugoslavia's alleged non-compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998) in the reporting period from 16 January to 22 March 1999 are inaccurate, biased and malicious.

Following the expiry of the said reporting period, NATO commenced an all-out armed aggression against Yugoslavia on 24 March 1999, trampling upon each and every principle of international law and the decisions of relevant international institutions, primarily those of the Security Council, the most responsible organ of the world Organization for maintaining international peace and security. This act of aggression has been committed against an independent, sovereign and peace-loving country which does not threaten any other country, does not question the interests of others and respects and abides strictly by the principles, rules and procedures of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant documents.

No mention in the annex is made of numerous instances of the killing, kidnapping, mistreatment and other terrorist acts committed by the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army against civilians and members of the Army and security forces of Yugoslavia. The aim of the signing by Kosovo and Metohija separatists and terrorists of the Rambouillet paper, published in the Albanian language newspaper Koha Ditore in Pristina several days before the "negotiations" even started, was to provide an alibi for aggression.

Following the Agreement reached between Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Richard Holbrooke, United States Special Envoy, "KLA" terrorists committed 1,062 terrorist actions or provocations in the period from 13 October 1998 to 21 March 1999. A total of 885 attacks and

provocations were committed against the police, in which 32 police officers were killed and 7 kidnapped. The fate of 4 police officers is unknown. Moreover, 377 civilians fell prey to terrorist attacks, 127 of them were killed and 147 severely wounded. Terrorists kidnapped 94 civilians, killing 14 of them, while the fate of 37 is unknown; and 59 terrorist attacks were committed against the members of the Army of Yugoslavia in which 3 soldiers were killed and 10 severely wounded.

The claims that the activities of the Government security forces are the main cause of the suffering and displacement of the population in Kosovo and Metohija are undocumented and therefore unfounded. No repressive actions have been taken against the civilian population. The law and order authorities act in a restrained manner and in accordance with the law and react, naturally and legitimately, only in self-defence.

The NATO shameful aggression against Yugoslavia has taken a heavy toll in human life and caused enormous material destruction. Its alleged aim is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from taking place in Kosovo and Metohija, but by its brutal and barbaric actions NATO is in fact provoking a humanitarian catastrophe of unseen proportions in the entire territory of the country. NATO is callously oblivious of the fact that for a great number of years Yugoslavia and its constituent Republic of Serbia have been faced with rampant secessionism and ruthless terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija, an integral part of the Serbian State for centuries. The terrorism of ethnic Albanian extremists has been on the rise in the last several months, aided and abetted from abroad. In committing the act of aggression, NATO has taken side with the forces of separatism and terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia. Open support to the forces of destruction and terrorism is a dangerous precedent for overall international relations.

The Kosovo Verification Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was withdrawn following a unilateral decision of Knut Vollebaek, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had invested its best efforts to provide conditions for unhampered work by the Mission. The competent Yugoslav and Serbian authorities fulfilled all their obligations towards the Mission, including guarantees of full safety to its members.

Yugoslavia does not threaten the stability and territorial integrity of its neighbours. Sporadic military operations in border areas have been taken in response to premeditated activities of "KLA" terrorists who, by stepping up their attacks and aggravating the overall situation in those areas, seek to disrupt the normal life of the population and provoke a mass exodus. The recent displacement of the population has come about as a consequence of NATO aerial bombardment as people flee their homes in search of shelter. After all, faced with a humanitarian catastrophe of mass-scale proportion, the people in the rest of Yugoslavia spend hours under ground as their cities and towns are being devastated by NATO bombs.

It is my firm conviction that heedful of the bidding of your conscience and in your capacity as head of the world Organization, you will raise your voice

against the violation of the basic principles of international law, condemn the shameful act of aggression and express solidarity with the just request of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the NATO aggression be brought to an immediate and unconditional end.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.